New York Tribune.

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LETTING WITNESSES DECAMP.

We do not know whether to admire Police Commissioner Waldo's earlier method with alleged grafters or his later. When Becker was accused the Commissioner was careful in the extreme. Nothing could hurry him into action against his subordinate until he had evidence which a court would accept. Now that Fox is accused he hastens to suspend the alleged grafter and then allows his evidence to take wings.

All the energies of the Police Department are now being bent to the finding of the missing witnesses against Fox. It will strike the public that the energies of the Police Department might have been devoted to preventing Sipp and Dorian from running away, or at least to preventing them from being intimidated into running away. With all the officers at his command Mr. Waldo ought to be able to keep his witnesses where he wants them and to protect them from annoyance.

If the Police Department wanted those witnesses why didn't it keep them within reach? Will it get them back? The ability of Mr. Waldo's force to catch witnesses against itself is under suspicion. The men now scurrying over the earth to find the witnesses necessary to prove that there is more than "one little lieutenant" grafting pulled the bedclothes off Schepps in the Catskills and let him depart for Hot Springs. For weeks they knew what automobile the wives of "Lefty" Louie and "Gyp" the Blood used in visiting the gunmen and where it was stabled, but they could not follow it from Manhattan to Brooklyn.

The best rule for Mr. Dougherty to follow is to profit by the lessons of the Becker case and order his men to intercept and inspect every taxicab approaching Police Headquarters. He may thus be able to catch the men he wants before they knock at his door.

THE RULE OF SENIORITY.

The rule of seniority in committee appointments which Mr. Bryan denounces has obtained for years in the United States Senate largely because of its practical convenience. It has made for orderliness and peace. In a legislative body in which committees are chosen by a committee on committees, responsible to a party caucus, the difficulties of applying the strict rule of merit commended by Mr. Bryan are obvious. There is no standard of merit to which all applicants for posts of distinction would be willing to subscribe. What constitutes merit in one aspirant's opinion may be construed as demerit in the opinion of another. Both parties in the Senate have therefore brought in an impersonal extraneous standard which could be applied mechanically and which would bear impartially on all. It may not have been the most accurate measure of capacity, but, at least, it was unprejudiced, and it prevented a contest for official recognition from degenerating into party civil war.

The practice of seniority preferment has its drawbacks. It tends to concentrate power in the hands of a few, since the members of longest service who obtain chairmanships under it also become the ranking members of other committees on which they serve. In a body like the Senate, where there are many committees and most Senators have to take five or six committee assignments, the veterans get the best places on the most important committees, and often have more work to do than they can attend to satisfactorily. It was a frequent complaint in the closing weeks of the last session of Congress that certain Senators were assigned by reason of their rank to too many conference committees, thus holding up the settlement of disputes arising with the House.

In the lower branch of Congress the evils of seniority advancement have been done away with by the adoption of the rule that the chairman of an important committee shall not serve on any other committee. That innovation was easy to make, because the House has a membership large enough to constitute all the committees without much duplication. But no such scheme would work in the Senate, which has only ninety-six members and maintains seventy-one committees, each with from three to seventeen members. If the seventy-one chairmen were to be barred from other committee service the other twenty-five Senators would have to serve on about fifty committees apiece.

If the six hundred to seven hundred committee appointments in the Senate were to be made on a merit basis alone, each Congress might see a series of personal and factional feuds as bitter as those of the Kentucky mountains. Before transacting any business it would have to be decided who were best qualified to have charge of the machinery, and the laws against dueling would prevent a speedy determination of questions at issue on an old-fashioned survival of the fittest basis. It would seem to be more sensible to try to modify the ills of the seniority system before flying to others inherent in the knock-down and drag-out method of selection which Mr. Bryan advocates.

A MIGHTY TASK.

Howbeit, doubtless, Master More, to speak truly as my mind giveth me, wheresoever possessions be private, where money beareth all the stroke, it is hard and almost impossible that there the weal public may justly be governed and prosperously flourish. . . . For when every man under certain titles and pretences draweth and plucketh to himself as much as he can, and so a few divide among themselves all the riches that there is, be there never so much abundance and store, then to the residue is left lack and poverty.

So thought Master Raphael after his visit to Utopia, and so thought Plato. Neither could plan a just distribution of wealth except as all property was held in common. Governor Wilson, however, goes them one better. Having caught a new glimpse of that heaven that lies about us in our infancy, he sends from his birthplace the message: "I want to proclaim for "my fellow citizens this gospel for the "future, that the men who serve will "be the men who profit." He tells the business men of the United States that "they are not going to be allowed to "make any money except for a *quid "pro quo*"; that they must render a service or get nothing, and that in the regulation of business "the govern-"ment—that is, the moral judgments "of the majority—must determine "whether what they are doing is a "service or is not a service, and that "everything in business and politics is "going to be reduced to this standard: "'Are you giving anything to society "'when you want to take anything out "'of society?'"

It is a high ideal. If Governor Wilson can achieve it he will have solved the problem of the ages. Not in recent years only, as he suggests, have men been getting something for nothing, or, which amounts to the same thing, getting double what any particular service earned. No lawgiver yet has ever been able to prevent it, and philosophers in despair have turned to the abolition of private gain as the only road to the abolition of unearned gain. We would not scoff at the vision. It is what every honest man would like to see realized. If Governor Wilson can do what Plato could not, if he can so wisely regulate the acquisition and distribution of wealth that every man may take in property just as much and only as much as he gives in labor of hand or brain without erecting an omniscient machine for the minute and deadening control of every human action, he will have made a millennium indeed. He is to make the promoter cease from stock watering, the grocer gauge his profits strictly by the value of his service in distribution, the planter sell his cotton, not according to the price he can exact from the spinner in time of shortage, but according to the actual cost of production. And he is to devise some human authority so wise that it can determine the value of each man's contribution as planter, grocer or banker to the public weal, and enable it to enforce its sumptuary rules on all enterprise. Then the union laborer will no longer be open to his complaint of being an "unprofitable servant," and the "money trust" will have no reason for being. The ideal is a high one. Governor Wilson has set for his administration the most tremendous transformation of society undertaken since man's acquisitive instinct obtained the sanction of law.

THE CANAL AND THE NAVY.

Mr. J. F. Frazer's discussion in "The London Standard" of the relation between the Panama Canal and the American navy is in some degree reminiscent of Holmes's katydid. It says a number of undisputed things "in such a solemn way." Perhaps the repetition of them is a revelation to British readers. Certainly it is not to thoughtful Americans who have paid attention to the subject. It is obvious that the canal will in a sense be "the "weakest link in America's chain of "defences." That is to say, it will form an integral and essential part of our coast line, and being the most remote part of it will be most difficult to protect in the ordinary way. To any threatened point on the coast from Maine to Texas an army could be hurried to prevent a hostile landing, but nothing of the sort could be done at Panama, and the canal would have to depend upon permanent local defences and the navy.

There is another consideration. Hostile seizure of any other point on the coast would affect chiefly that point itself and it alone. It would not bar intercourse between other parts of the littoral. But seizure or impairment of the canal would instantly bar all maritime intercourse between our Atlantic and Pacific coasts and would separate the two portions of our navy which might be in those respective oceans just as though the canal had never been constructed. That is the fact which makes those fifty miles by far the most important part of our whole coast line from the strategic point of view. And these two circumstances are what make it essential that the canal shall be provided with the most powerful fortifications that can be constructed.

There is also a somewhat amusing naïveté in Mr. Frazer's observation that Americans are likely soon to realize that, in view of the possibility of the canal's being seized or obstructed, it will be necessary for them to maintain on each coast a fleet capable of holding its own against any opponent without the help of that on the other coast. Even if this is true, it would be the height of absurdity to suggest that the canal thus demanded a greater increase of naval power than would otherwise be necessary, for, of course, if there were no canal the maintenance of such a fleet on each ocean would be at least as necessary as it will be with the canal, and there would be this difference, that then each fleet would positively have always to rely upon itself, co-operation between them being entirely impossible; while with the canal there will always be the probability of complete co-operation between the two, and a practical certainty of some such co-operation at the beginning, and a shifting of strength to the coast on which it would be the more needed. The canal will not obviate the need of a big navy, but it will greatly increase the efficiency of that navy.

PRODUCE BY PARCELS POST.

The Housewives' League, which has been causing a flurry in the egg market in various cities, announces that it will attack the high cost of living from a different angle. It purposes to open a bureau in the city which shall register the names and addresses of all who wish to purchase butter, eggs and other farm produce direct from the farmers by way of the parcels post service and of all the farmers within fifty miles of the city who are willing to sell their produce direct to consumers. Later similar bureaus will be formed in other cities. For its services as middleman the league will make no charge. It is hoped to enlist the services of local granges and the State Grange in awakening the farmers to their opportunities under new conditions of directly reaching consumers.

It is an interesting experiment. Because of the limit of size and weight of parcels to be shipped by the parcels post service, it is not to be expected that this scheme will break the high cost of living or do much more than dent it. However, it may afford a limited number of small farmers a chance to sell their output in small lots at somewhat better prices than they could get by disposing of a small crop in a lump. It may also make it possible for persons of average means to obtain limited quantities of butter, eggs, fruits and vegetables fresh from the farms at approximately what they now pay their retail dealers for those supplies, or, under happy circumstances, at some reduction. For a number of years the Long Island Railroad's experimental farm has been shipping hampers of fresh fruit and vegetables by express to consumers in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and they arrive in good condition. The plan of the Housewives' League will be worth while if it does no more than extend the consumption of really fresh farm produce.

AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS.

Amendment of the automobile law to cure some of its glaring inconsistencies should be one of the first acts of the Legislature which is about to assemble. That law was not deemed perfect when it was enacted. Experience with it has proved it to be less of a deterrent of reckless motor car driving, less effective as an instrument for punishment, and generally less successful to protect the law-abiding than was expected. Its flaws are well enough known, though the recent court decision that a drunken chauffeur who might run down Broadway at sixty miles an hour could escape with only $25 fine unless he happened to kill some unlucky individual shows up one flaw hitherto unsuspected. Obviously that needs a remedy. There should be stricter regulation of the issue of licenses, that ex-convicts and crooks may not be running taxicabs and "murder cars," and there should be also some more effectual way of keeping track of the conviction of drivers for violations of the law, that their licenses may be revoked. It might be well, also, if owners as well as chauffeurs were compelled to take out licenses.

At the same time the unfortunate situation in this city is not due entirely to the faults of the automobile law. As Mr. Callan, the sponsor of that statute, points out, it expressly leaves to cities of the first class the regulation of their automobile traffic and the restriction of speed. This was insisted on by New York City men at the time the measure was under consideration, because it was believed that no general statute could meet conditions here as well as local ordinances could. Yet the local authorities are still going along under an old ordinance which prescribes a speed of eight miles an hour within the city, a maximum of fifteen miles in unsettled districts, with a $10 fine as the penalty for violation. That is even more inadequate than the Callan law. For the proper protection of the public in this city and adequate punishment of speed maniacs and drunken chauffeurs a new city ordinance is needed quite as much as improvement in the state laws.

MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Events last week did not materially change the business status of the country. The volume of trading on the New York Stock Exchange was unimportant, and was influenced largely by the Christmas holiday and the dulness which naturally was expected around that period. In the general news of the week, which had a direct connection with the security markets, the railroad earnings for November were important. The increases in gross and net earnings were sufficiently large to be helpful in supporting prices of stocks under ordinary circumstances, but the Christmas season, irregularity on the foreign bourses and a tendency toward a stringency in the call money market kept transactions within a limited volume and made price movements comparatively narrow.

The general business of the United States in most lines showed remarkable expansion. The holiday retail trade was exceptionally large in nearly every branch. The drygoods business is reported to be the most satisfactory in years, in both cottons and woollens. The mills are said to have important orders for months in advance, and, contrary to expectations, jobbers have not reported any slackening of business. In the iron and steel trade orders have been so pressing that the ordinary closing down for the holidays will be much shorter this year than in years gone by. Railroads continue to be in the market for cars and other forms of equipment, and there has been heavy purchasing of steel billets in some sections. The footwear trade has shown an improvement, although the tendency of prices in leather is downward. An evidence of the healthy business situation may be found in the tremendous increase in exports, which last week broke all previous records. Exports were $4,136,000 larger this year than in the corresponding period in 1911.

The money situation remains about the same for commercial purposes as it has been for some time. Throughout the country there seems to be a sufficient supply to meet the commercial demands, but until after the first of the year money will remain firm, with possibly some tendency toward higher rates. In the foreign money markets there is still considerable strain, and, while the situation is not serious, it will require a settlement of Continental political differences to afford much relief. The impulse with which this country's business will be started in 1913 bids fair to carry prosperity over the obstacles which tariff agitation and European uncertainty would naturally throw in the way of development.

Chicago has a new police dog named Waldo. The animal starts work under a handicap.

Mr. Sulzer will begin his administration with a vigorous effort to live up to his description of himself as "plain Bill Sulzer" by abolishing the military parade which ordinarily forms a part of the inaugural ceremonies. It is apparent that he will never emulate Governor Dix's devotion to militarism to the extent of appearing in uniform.

Commissioner Prouty hits the nail squarely on the head when he tells transportation companies that reliability is more important than dispatch. That is true of the transportation of both passengers and packages.

Governor Clark reports that the commerce of Alaska—chiefly, of course, with the United States—amounted last year to nearly $63,000,000, including the single item of $17,200,000 in gold shipped to this country. Yet some of us can still remember the ridicule, contempt and condemnation which were heaped upon William Henry Seward for "annexing an iceberg" and for squandering $7,200,000 of good Yankee money on "our Arctic province"!

To put Bryan in the Cabinet would be kicking the hound dog around.

Professor Munsterberg surely does both Germany and America injustice in intimating that the latter is responsible for an unwarranted prejudice in the former country against men who have reached the age of fifty years. Seeing how large a proportion of Americans of light and leading, in political life, business life and the learned professions, are well past fifty, we must doubt if there is nearly so strong a prejudice against men of that age here as some have affected to think ever since a celebrated remark of Dr. Osler's was exploited with a distorted meaning; and even if so foolish a prejudice did exist we have too much respect for the sound sense of Germany to think that it would affect the judgment of that country and pervert it into the same error.

No pleasure is without its compensating pains. Excessive automobile riding produces the "automobile foot," according to physicians—one so little used that it becomes soft and unable to bear the increased weight of the body without pain and injury.

A plan for the better lighting of the "Great White Way" is under discussion. Painting the lily!

It is evident that a good deal of the criticism aimed at "selling short" in Wall Street is based upon a confused understanding of what "selling short" means. If the process of engaging to part with something not yet acquired were to be denominated "going short" it might remove some of the objections of those who maintain that there is an impropriety in permitting a man to say that he is selling something which he does not actually possess. The right to make a future contract is based on sound commercial considerations and helps materially to steady values in any field of production and trade.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Labor union tyranny and McNamaras and bombs can't scare that valiant old warrior and veteran newspaper man General Harrison Gray Otis. On October 1, 1910, the home of his newspaper, "The Los Angeles Times," was blown up by the McNamara brothers and a score of his staff were killed. Recently General Otis moved his big newspaper family into a new building, which he described in a commemorative edition as follows: "The aim of the builders has been to make the building as nearly fireproof, earthquake-proof and dynamite proof as is humanly possible, and also to make it exactly suited to the practical and exacting requirements of the expanded and expanding business. The new building is wider, deeper, higher into the air, extends farther into the earth, and is more solid, massive, enduring and imposing in appearance than was the destroyed structure." The souvenir issue of "The Times," in large part a memorial to the victims of the explosion of 1910, marked the first occupancy of the new structure.

Little Boy (who reads the newspapers, to his father on Christmas Day)—Papa, have those women who are walking to Albany reached there yet?

Younger Brother (who also reads the newspapers, in an indignant and superior manner)—Those aren't women. They're suffragettes!

It cost the State of Maine a small fraction over two mills an acre to patrol and protect from fire a vast territory of wild lands in northern Maine in the last hunting season. This territory was under the direction of Hosea B. Buck, of Bangor, chief warden under Forest Commissioner Mace, and it includes 35 townships, embracing an area of 2,317,199 acres, and is valued, according to the report of the assessors for 1910, at $9,527,196. "The Kennebec Journal" says that the fire district tax of one and one-half mills on this valuation amounted to $14,290 80, and of this amount there was used $4,918 37.

Crawford—In regard to the turkey trot, what has convinced you that it is vulgar?

Crabshow—I find it's always part of the performance where they give refined vaudeville.—Judge.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

Our Mayor lately seemed annoyed
Because some "wretched scamp" employed
This term, "the vestibule of hell,"
For Brooklyn, which he loves so well.
The point he somehow seemed to miss;
Else, why was he disturbed by this?
No Brooklynite the words should scorch—
What is a vestibule? A porch
Through which the people every day
Pass to business or to play—
In short, it is what we might style
An adjunct to a domicile.
Then when we come to think of it,
Manhattan is the one that's hit!

G. B. M.

Student in Physics—Could you get a shock by holding onto the receiver of a telephone?

Professor—It depends upon who is talking.—Judge.

William S. Gummere, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Superior Court, has a keen sense of humor, which sparkles at times. He had just taken a seat in a Pennsylvania Railroad train on his way home from Trenton the other day, when a rather gaudily dressed woman walked up to him and demanded to know: "Is this the smoker?" "No," responded the justice, quietly, "you'll find the smoker two cars ahead."

"We should all marry our opposites," remarked the Wise Guy.

"Did you ever hear of a beardless youth marrying a girl with a harelip?" asked the Simple Mug.—Philadelphia Record.

At a supper which took place after the theatre one evening last week at a home which is known for its elaborate hospitality there was present a woman from Southern Europe who had been in this country only a few days. When the cigarettes were passed she was the only woman at the table who declined to take one, and in answer to her neighbor's question said that she never smoked cigarettes. "I am surprised," said the man, "for I thought all women in your country smoked." "Most of them do," she said, "and I am no exception, but I never smoke cigarettes—I prefer cigars, probably because of my husband's views on the subject." And later in the evening the rest of the women were "shocked" by seeing what one of the men described as "a very creditable performance behind a puritana."

"Conscience is what tells a man when he is doing wrong."

"That may be true in your family," replied Mr. Meekton, "but my wife's name is Henrietta."—Washington Star.

IF CRIME WERE ABOLISHED—

"Millions Might Starve, Many Vocation End and Sciences Decay."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: On reading the communication of Ph. Hurwich to The Tribune of to-day, I recalled to mind a theory advanced by an English author whose book appeared in London in 1842, and in which he says:

"A highly educated condition of society is a column, with vice and crime for its foundation stone and premature death and disease for its crowning capital . . . and they cannot be removed without the immediate overthrow and total disorganization of the entire fabric. I say that vice and crime are absolutely necessary to high cultivation; that if the conditions of society as it now exists be desirable, then vice and crime are of necessity also desirable, and that they who offer up their daily prayers for the total annihilation of vice and crime know not what they ask. Let us suppose their prayers granted. Let us suppose that, by the interposition of a miracle, vice and crime were at once annihilated, and that to-morrow morning every man, woman and child were destined to rise from their beds all perfectly honest and good. Millions of human beings must soon perish of starvation or subsist on charity."

The author goes on to show the great number of people who, if all were honest and good, would be thrown instantly out of employment. There would be no use for courts, judges or lawyers, soldiers or sailors, locksmiths, policemen, makers of military goods, gunmakers, nearly all the medical men, and the employes of persons of those classes, all clergymen and their servants, "thieves, brothel keepers, keepers of low public houses and places of vicious resort, or for newspapers, with the multitudes supported by them."

It would also "put an almost entire stop to the cultivation of the sciences, by removing most of the inducements to study. The whole order of society must instantly be broken up, and an equal distribution of all property made amongst the whole, or famished multitudes must perish, and the streets, wayssides and hedgerows be thickly strewn with the dying and the dead—starved victims to the abolition of vice and crime."

There is certainly room for thought in the above extract, even if on first reading we find ourselves unable to agree with the notions of the author, who certainly produced a very readable book.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS.

New York, Dec. 26, 1912.

NATURE'S BALANCE

Her Checking System Works All Right Until Man Interferes.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Many people assume that for the great diminution in numbers of game and some other birds predatory creatures or so-called vermin are responsible.

This assumption takes no account of the fact that prior to its settlement by man the country teemed with game and birds, while at the same time vermin were far more abundant than they ever have been since. If vermin are responsible for the decrease of birds and game, it is surely strange that the decrease was never apparent till man's activities made themselves felt.

As a matter of fact, naturalists know that nature's laws work in this wise: Whenever one form of life tends to unduly increase as compared with other forms some predatory creature devotes itself more exclusively to preying on such unusually abundant form, or the food of the abundant form becomes scarce, so that there is an immediate checking of over-abundance. Thus, should game tend to become so abundant as to threaten its food supply and endanger starvation, not only does diminished food check increase, but this is still further reduced by attacks of predatory creatures. As soon as game drops below normal abundance, the predatory creatures turn their attention largely elsewhere, food supply increases and conditions favor the increase of game. This is the law of nature's balance and it works admirably until man upsets it.

Predatory creatures most easily secure the sick, weak or maimed birds and game, thereby eliminating them from propagation and tending to strengthen the stock bred.

Like the ripples from a stone thrown into a pool of water, reaching to the furthest shores, a disturbance of nature's balance at any point makes itself felt more or less throughout the whole intricate fabric of animal life.

Man often disturbs nature's balance, but never restores it. He kills off the native game birds, then introduces foreign ones in their place. The latter do not succeed in changed environment and he lays all the blame on vermin, predatory creatures. Then he wants to still further upset nature's balance by killing off the predatory creatures.

"What fools these mortals be."

B. S. BOWDISH.

New York, Dec. 27, 1912.

APPRECIATE TRIBUNE'S HELP

Paper Won Especial Gratitude of Public Christmas Tree Workers.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As one of the workers for the open-air Christmas tree I wish to express to you and your staff of reporters sincere thanks and appreciation for your splendid co-operation in launching the public Christmas celebration idea and your support and protection of the ideal side of the "tree of light."

Our effort has had the most beautiful and hearty co-operation and assistance from public officials, business concerns and private individuals and the entire city press.

Your esteemed paper has earned our special gratitude for having courteously withheld from publication the information you had in advance of others until we were completely ready with our plans.

With gratitude for your help and support of idealism,

ONE OF THE WORKERS.

New York, Dec. 29, 1912.

BACKSLIDING

More Stores Open at Night This Year than Last, Says C. L. Member.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you publish this correction of a statement made in an editorial printed in yesterday's edition? It says—regarding the opening of the stores in the evenings, before Christmas—"This year has seen a continuance of the good example of moderation set in 1911. A few large stores have kept open a little longer on Saturday evenings, but in general the incitements of the past to overwork and overbuying have been agreeably lacking."

You have, I am sure, been misinformed. The facts are these (the data given me by floorwalkers in the open stores when I inspected them on Saturday evening, December 21): Most of those visited on Sixth avenue and 14th street had remained open Saturday evening, 14th; Friday evening, 20th; were then open Saturday evening, 21st, and, it was expected, would be open Monday evening, 23d, and Christmas Eve. Two of them were open an additional evening, Thursday, 19th.

So it was a step backward in most of the stores from the holiday season of 1911.

If the New York public could be aroused to the burden which it puts upon department store employes by shopping in the evening this burden could be lifted. And I am sure that The Tribune does not wish to voice improvement when the facts show backsliding.

MARY R. SANFORD.

Member of Governing Board of Consumers' League.

New York, Dec. 25, 1912.

LET WOMEN DO THE CARVING!

Equal Rights Principle Would Then Be Vindicated, Says a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We were greatly amused the other day by an article in one of our dailies entitled "Suffrage Talk Between the Acts at the Montauk," especially when former Assistant District Attorney Elder, in his speech, said: "There are many instances of the fact that we have been acting on the principle that women are inferior to men," etc. He said that the fact that the man of the family was allowed to sit at the head of the table and carve the dinner was one of the better indications that women felt themselves inferior to those whom he termed the "lords of creation" and one reason why women should fight for equal rights. Another reason, said Mr. Elder, was that the term "old maid" was a reproach, while the word "bachelor" was not.

Now, if the fact that men usually do the carving and thus show their superiority is a reason why "women should fight for equal rights," why not change off awhile and let man pour the tea and coffee, while woman sways the carving knife? As to "old maids," we did not know that "equal rights" were going to affect this term and, in the speaker's judgment, put an old maid on equal terms with an old bachelor. Well, we "must get out of our little shell and go to some of the suffrage conventions," as our Flatbush friend suggested. These powerful arguments are enough to make us get somewhere. K.

Mattituck, Long Island, Dec. 25, 1912.

HELP!

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish to call attention to an outrage—one that can be corrected by some one who has the authority to do so.

I am one among many who travel on the Madison avenue surface cars coming from uptown, and at 42d street have to go to the west on 42d street. What I complain about is the daily habit of conductors on the downward trip of stopping at the north side of 43d street and then notifying the passengers that the next stop will be Vanderbilt avenue. This compels one to travel from the north side of 43d street across that street and the block between that street and 42d street; otherwise the passenger is obliged to travel from Vanderbilt avenue west when the car does not stop at 42d street. If the cars were to stop on the south side of 43d street, as they do on all the other corners, it would not be so bad. Stopping on the north side of 43d street, the persons getting off often have to wait for teams to cross before they can go on to 42d street. Having paid to ride to where I want to get off I protest with many others that we do not get what we pay for. A DAILY SUFFERER.

New York, Dec. 19, 1912.

CHILD SLAVES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Christmas morning there appeared a letter in your paper signed by W. J. Proctor making a protest against the agitation for the abolition of child labor.

It is to be regretted that Mr. Proctor could not have better thoughts around this time of the year.

I am sure his letter or his activities will not in the least diminish the great good that is being done to free the child slaves, and therefore do not deem it of any importance to elucidate their position or defend their rights.

But I can assure Mr. Proctor, whose age is past seventy, that there will always be some one to battle for the advancement and ease of the human race, and his pitiable utterance against this great reform is as feeble as his age.

JOSEPH LEWIS.

New York, Dec. 26, 1912.

IRELAND'S NEW FLAG

Nationalists Accept Union Jack Charged with Harp.

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Ireland's official flag after the Home Rule bill becomes law will, by agreement between the government and the Nationalist party, not be the green flag with the golden harp, which figures as the standard of Erin in this country, but the Union Jack, or imperial flag, as displayed by the great dependencies of the British Crown.

The Union Jack is already by statute the flag of the empire. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa each make use of the Union Jack, on the field of which is shown the special heraldic device of the self-governing dependency in question.

So it will be with Ireland. A quarter of the flag will be devoted to the Union Jack, while on the remainder of the red, white or blue field, as the case may be, there will be the heraldic charge of Ireland, presumably the harp.

As stated by the leader of the Nationalists in the House of Commons the other day, the Union Jack, which dates from the Union in 1800, has hitherto been regarded with hatred by an overwhelming majority of the Irish people as symbolizing the loss of their legislative independence. But once the Union is repealed and autonomy granted to Ireland—once Ireland is admitted into the empire on terms of equality and honor with the other great dependencies of the crown—the Union Jack, with the Irish charge, will become the emblem of a contented Ireland.

Only Monarch on the Turf.

King George, the only reigning sovereign in the world who maintains a racing stable, and whose colors, duly registered, are to be seen on the racetrack, has won so many of the lesser races during the past year that his stud shows a net profit of $20,000 over the cost of the training and upkeep of the horses. The sale of yearlings is also a source of considerable profit. Owing to this he has decided to continue his active connection with the turf for at least another two years, and all arrangements for the racing of his horses, and their entries, are being made in accordance with this plan.

This will doubtless serve to set at rest the stories extensively printed a few weeks ago that he had determined to give up racing, in deference to the alleged prejudices of Queen Mary against that particular form of sport.

Sir Valentine Chirol's Successor.

Sir Valentine Chirol has been succeeded by Wickham Steed as foreign editor of "The Times," of London. Steed has hitherto been the resident correspondent of that paper at Vienna, where he made a considerable name for himself by his exceptional independence of character and his unusual grasp of European politics. In fact, the dispatches of "The Times" from Vienna during the last three years have been the features of the paper.

If I call attention to this, it is owing to the very intimate connection between this great organ of the English press and the British government. It is perfectly true that the editorial policy of the paper is very often against the administration, which it does not hesitate to criticise and assail in the most violent manner. This does not prevent the government of the day, no matter what the party in power, from invariably using "The Times" in preference to any other newspaper as its channel for official communications to the public.

Moreover, no resident correspondent of the paper is appointed to any of the great capitals of Europe without a previous understanding with the Foreign Office, so that the embassy and "The Times" correspondent almost invariably work hand in hand. Sir Valentine Chirol, who has been for so many years foreign editor of "The Times," was a clerk in the Foreign Office for a number of years before he joined "The Times" as its correspondent in Berlin. He was holding that office when selected to succeed Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace as director of the foreign department of the paper.

Royal Birthdays at Christmas.

Denmark's new Queen, like her uncle, King George of Greece, and her nineteen-year-old cousin, Prince Virgo, youngest son of Prince Waldemar of Denmark, enjoys the distinction of having been born on Christmas Eve; that is to say, in the night intervening between the daylight of December 24 and 25. To these must be added the elder of the two Dowager Grandduchesses of Luxemburg (grandmother of the present occupant of the grandducal throne); also Princess Françoise of Orleans, the ten-year-old daughter of the Duke and Duchesse de Guise, the duchesse being a sister of the Duke of Orleans, and the Duc de Guise the only surviving son of the late Duc de Chartres, who served on the staff of General George B. McClellan during the Civil War in this country.

In English speaking countries and in Scandinavia births on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day are accounted lucky. But in other parts of Europe they are considered very unlucky, and the many tragedies which darkened the life of Empress Elizabeth of Austria, finally culminating in her assassination at Geneva, are ascribed by numbers of people to the fact that she was born on Christmas Eve. Folklore throughout the South of Europe, not only in Latin countries but also in some parts of the Balkans, has taught for hundreds of years past that a terrible blight rests upon those born on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, popular superstition holding such births to be sacrilegious.

England's Tiniest Admiral.

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, who has just been appointed to the office of Second Sea Lord of the Naval Department, at Whitehall, is, barring midshipmites, the most diminutive officer of the senior service, differing in this respect from Admiral Prince Louis of Battenberg, whose place he is taking. Yet, in spite of his brevity of stature, he won fame in his younger days as a football player, as an all-'round athlete and as a boxer. He has seen plenty of fighting. As sub-lieutenant he was present at the bombardment of Alexandria, and afterward took part in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir as a member of the Naval Brigade.

Jellicoe was ill, suffering from Malta fever, on board the Victoria, which was rammed by the Camperdown, and sent to the bottom of the Mediterranean, carrying down with her Admiral Sir George Tryon, and more than six hundred officers and men, but miraculously escaped.

Indeed, having entered the water when his temperature was 103, he was fished out at the normal 98, cured of his illness; so that it was irreverently said that he was born to be hanged. He was badly wounded in the attempt to relieve the foreign legations at Peking twelve years ago, while serving as chief of staff of Admiral of